REMARKS

Pursuant to the above-noted Office Action, claim 22 has been objected to. Claims 1-4, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) given Malkin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,061,650) ("Malkin"). Claims 5 and 8-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) given Malkin in view of O'Brien, Jr. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0031165) ("O'Brien"). The applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and requests reconsideration.

Objections Regarding Formalities

Claim 22 has been objected to as lacking antecedent basis in lines 5 and 6 for the expression "the billing mediation server." With all due respect, the applicant notes that direct antecedent basis is found lines 2-3 of claim 22, which reads in part as follows:

> [A]t least one given participating subscriber comprises receiving, by *a billing mediation server[a]*, at least some services usage information...

As direct antecedent basis for the subsequent appearance of "the billing mediation server" exists as described above, the applicant respectfully submits that claim 22 does not suffer the described informality and is otherwise in suitable condition to support continued examination and allowance.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-4, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) given Malkin. Malkin describes a method and apparatus for transparently providing mobile network functionality. Malkin, however, makes no direct or indirect reference to the use of session initiation protocol. The claims in question, however, make specific reference to session initiation protocol. Claim 1, for example, provides for "receiving session protocol compatible authentication message information" as well as "converting the session initiation protocol compatible authentication message information into corresponding RADIUS protocol compatible authentication message information." As Malkin makes no teaching, direct or otherwise, with respect to the use of

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[a] Emphasis provided.

session initiation protocol, Malkin cannot be said to anticipate such recitations. The applicant therefore respectfully submits that claims 1-4, 6, and 7 are allowable over Malkin.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 5 and 8-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) given Malkin in view of O'Brien.

Independent Claim 16

As noted above, Malkin provides no teachings with respect to the use of session initiation protocol under any circumstances. O'Brien makes use of session initiation protocol, but only in a general manner. In particular, neither O'Brien nor Malkin offer any specific teachings, in context, with respect to receiving such an initiation protocol compatible authentication message information as corresponds to an authentication message that is sourced by a given subscriber in conjunction with a near-real-time multicast session, converting that session initiation protocol compatible authentication message information into a corresponding RADIUS protocol compatible authentication message information, or using the resultant RADIUS protocol compatible authentication message information as is so formed to facilitate authentication of that subscriber with respect to participation in the near-real-time multicast session. Accordingly, no combination of these two references, regardless of how obvious or unobvious that combination might be, will meet the recitations of independent claim 16 as claim 16 includes limitations directly addressing such differences. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 16 is not rendered obvious in view of these two references.

Independent Claim 30

Independent claim 30 has been amended to now include the limitations of dependent claim 33. Accordingly, independent claim 30 now specifically relates to billing information that comprises at least one of a number of specified possibilities. These possibilities are:

- a start time for a near-real-time multicast communication service;

- an end time for a near-real-time multicast communication service;

    - an Internet Protocol address of a near-real-time multicast communication service server;

    - an Internet Protocol address of a session initiation protocol compatible proxy;

    - identifying information for an initiating party of a near-real-time multicast communication; and

    - identifying information for a plurality of participants of a near-real-time multicast communication.

Again, neither O'Brien nor Malkin make any specific teachings in context with respect to any of these particular possibilities. Accordingly, with all due respect, the applicant avers that no combination of Malkin with O'Brien, regardless of how obvious or unobvious, will yield and match the recitations of independent claim 30 as amended. The applicant therefore respectfully submits that claim 30 may be passed to allowance over the two references of record.
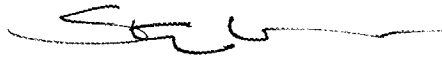
The remaining claims are ultimately dependent on one of the independent claims discussed above, which claims have been shown to be allowable. Although the applicant believes that these dependent claims include and set forth additional patentable content, for the sake of brevity and expedited prosecution, the applicant is content for the moment to rest upon the arguments presented.

Conclusion

The applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-22, 24-32, and 34-36 may be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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